

REMARKS

The Examiner's action dated November 25, 2003, has been received, and its contents carefully noted.

In order to advance prosecution, claim 2 has been placed in independent form by incorporation of its subject matter into parent claim 1, claims 9-13 and 17 have been cancelled, the remaining claims have been amended, where necessary, to provide proper dependency, and claim 14 has been amended to eliminate certain informalities noted therein. Since claim 2 was previously indicated to be allowable, its subject matter has been incorporated into claim 1, and all of the remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1, it is believed that the prior art rejections have been overcome.

As regards the restriction requirement, undersigned hereby confirms our intention to select Species I. Of course, since all of the claims now in the application are *prima facie* allowable, the restriction requirement is moot.

In response to the rejection of claims 14-16 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, claim 14 has been amended to refer to "said" anodized aluminum layer.

Appln. No. 09/865,601
Amd. dated February 25, 2004
Reply to Office Action of November 25, 2003

In view of the amendments made to the claims, it is believed that all of the rejections of record have been overcome and it is therefore asked that the application be allowed.

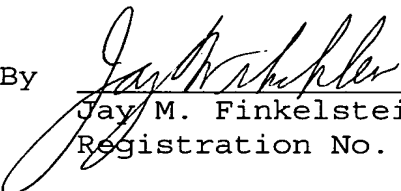
Filed concurrently herewith is an Information Disclosure Statement citing, and enclosing a copy of, a reference that has come to applicants' attention.

If the above amendment should not now place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call undersigned counsel to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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